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OF THE
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Foreword

Nineteen hundred and ninety-seven was a year of great and growing confidence for our Nation. America moved forward, forging a new vision of how Government can best equip our people for a time of great change. After years of partisan division and decades of deficits, the two political parties worked together to enact a balanced budget that reflected our values and protected our priorities—the first balanced budget in a generation.

This achievement meant much more than numbers on a ledger. Our balanced budget heralded a new era of fiscal discipline. It accelerated a virtuous cycle of rising economic growth and falling interest rates. It did nothing less than save Government from its own excesses, making it again a progressive force—one that lives within its means while making historic investments in our people. The budget contained the biggest increase in aid to higher education since the passage of the GI Bill 50 years ago and will open the doors of college to every person willing to work for it. The budget also made the largest single investment in health care since the creation of Medicaid in 1965 and will help provide health coverage for up to 5 million uninsured children.

As I said in September at American University, after years in which the two parties seemed capable of little more than conflict, we finally found a way for Democrats and Republicans to work together for the national interest. America is working again; and now, at long last, Washington proved that it could, too.

I also sought to find common ground and lead our Nation to higher ground on another challenge we face at the end of the 20th century, the dilemma of race. My *Initiative on Race* sought to promote a dialogue in every community about this issue and develop concrete solutions to enduring problems of prejudice and discrimination. For me, the most powerful reminder of the distance we can travel together as a Nation came on a sunny morning in Little Rock, Arkansas, when we celebrated the achievement of the Little Rock Nine. Four decades earlier, on September 4, 1957, when they tried to enter the doors of Central High, the Little Rock Nine were turned away by jeers, threats, and the implacable resistance of institutional racism. But on this day, 40 years later, when those same individuals walked up the steps of that imposing brick building, a President of the United States was there to welcome them and hold the door open. We have many steps to climb as we approach the new century. But as the Little Rock Nine reminded us, our Nation moves forward and upward when we move together, as one America.

William Clinton

Preface

This book contains the papers and speeches of the 42d President of the United States that were issued by the Office of the Press Secretary during the period July 1–December 31, 1997. The material has been compiled and published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration.

The material is presented in chronological order, and the dates shown in the headings are the dates of the documents or events. In instances when the release date differs from the date of the document itself, that fact is shown in the textnote. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy: Remarks are checked against a tape recording, and signed documents are checked against the original. Textnotes and cross references have been provided by the editors for purposes of identification or clarity. Speeches were delivered in Washington, DC, unless indicated. The times noted are local times. All materials that are printed full-text in the book have been indexed in the subject and name indexes, and listed in the document categories list.

The Public Papers of the Presidents series was begun in 1957 in response to a recommendation of the National Historical Publications Commission. An extensive compilation of messages and papers of the Presidents covering the period 1789 to 1897 was assembled by James D. Richardson and published under congressional authority between 1896 and 1899. Since then, various private compilations have been issued, but there was no uniform publication comparable to the Congressional Record or the United States Supreme Court Reports. Many Presidential papers could be found only in the form of mimeographed White House releases or as reported in the press. The Commission therefore recommended the establishment of an official series in which Presidential writings, addresses, and remarks of a public nature could be made available.

The Commission's recommendation was incorporated in regulations of the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, issued under section 6 of the Federal Register Act (44 U.S.C. 1506), which may be found in title 1, part 10, of the Code of Federal Regulations.

A companion publication to the Public Papers series, the Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents, was begun in 1965 to provide a broader range of Presidential materials on a more timely basis to meet the needs of the contemporary reader. Beginning with the administration of Jimmy Carter, the Public Papers series expanded its coverage to include additional material as printed in the Weekly Compilation. That coverage provides a listing of the President's daily schedule and meetings, when announced, and other items of general interest issued by the Office of the Press Secretary. Also included are lists of the President's nominations submitted to the Senate, materials released by the Office of the Press Secretary that are not printed full-text in the book, and proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents released by the Office of the Press Secretary and published in the *Federal Register*. This information appears in the appendixes at the end of the book.

Volumes covering the administrations of Presidents Hoover, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, and Bush are also included in the Public Papers series.

The Public Papers of the Presidents publication program is under the direction of Frances D. McDonald, Managing Editor, Office of the Federal Register. The series is produced by the Presidential and Legislative Publications Unit, Gwen H. Estep, Chief. The Chief Editor of this book was Karen Howard Ashlin, assisted by Scott Andreae, Brad Brooks, Anna Glover, Margaret A. Hemmig, Maxine Hill, Michael Hoover, Alfred Jones, Jennifer S. Mangum, Michael J. Sullivan, and Karen A. Thornton.

The frontispiece and photographs used in the portfolio were supplied by the White House Photo Office. The typography and design of the book were developed by the Government Printing Office under the direction of Michael F. DiMario, Public Printer.

Raymond A. Mosley
Director of the Federal Register

John W. Carlin
Archivist of the United States

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Secretary of Commerce	William M. Daley
Secretary of Labor	Alexis M. Herman
Secretary of Health and Human Services	Donna E. Shalala
Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Andrew M. Cuomo
Secretary of Transportation	Rodney E. Slater
Secretary of Energy	Federico Peña
Secretary of Education	Richard W. Riley
Secretary of Veterans Affairs	Hershel Gober, Acting
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Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency	Carol M. Browner
United States Trade Representative	Charlene Barshefsky
Director of the Office of Management and Budget	Franklin D. Raines

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Counselor to the President	Thomas F. McLarty III
Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers	Janet Yellen
Director of National Drug Control Policy	Barry R. McCaffrey
Administrator of the Small Business Administration	Aida Alvarez
Director of Central Intelligence	George J. Tenet
Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency	James Lee Witt

Administration of William J. Clinton

1997